



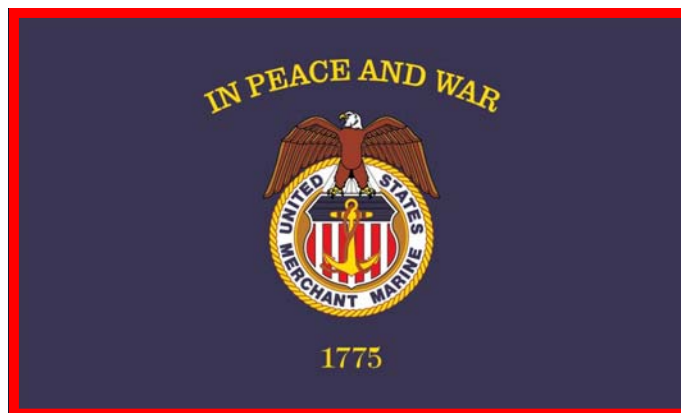
MARAD Update



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National Maritime Day Observance to Honor Creators of Merchant Marine Flag and Seal



The meaning of the U.S. Merchant Marine flag, as well as the story of its creation, will be told at MARAD's National Maritime Day observance in Washington, DC, on May 19

The Maritime Administration's ceremony observing National Maritime Day will be held on May 19, at 10:30 a.m., in the auditorium of the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center at 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, in Washington, DC. Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian will be the Master of Ceremonies. Original music has been written for this ceremony and will be performed, along with other selections, by the Mariners Chorus from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. The color guard will be provided by the State University of New York Maritime College in Fort Schuyler, New York.

This year, the ceremony also will honor the creators of the U.S. Merchant Marine flag and seal, the late Walter Oates of MARAD and Captain George Bark, a World War II Merchant Marine veteran. An accompanying video will tell the story of the design, and also the story behind the choice of the date 1775 as the beginning of the U.S. Merchant Marine: a skirmish at Round Island, in Machias, Maine.

On Monday, May 23, National Maritime Day observances will be held in New York City. National Maritime Day is May 22, and it falls this year on Sunday.

For further information about National Maritime Day 2005 observances and activities throughout the country, please contact MARAD's Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at (202) 366-5807.

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